Remarks

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending. Claim 5 has been cancelled, and claims 1-4, 6, and 7 have been amended. New claim 8 has been added. These claim cancellations, amendments, and additions are being made solely for purposes of placing the claims in a format appropriate for U.S. prosecution. Applicants submit that the amendments do not change the scope of the claims as originally filed. Such amendments are therefore made to address formalities in the claim format and are not related to the patentability of the subject matter of the claims. No new matter was added by way of these claim amendments and additions.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-6450.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this application, please charge the fees to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 13-3372.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 21, 2004

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Atty. Docket No.: LeA 36 197

Amendment to the Specification (Attorney Docket No. LeA 36 197)

Please amend the specification by inserting this paragraph on page 1, line 1 of the specification following the title:

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP2003/006611, filed June 24, 2003.

New Claims (Attorney Docket No. LeA 36 197)

8. (New) A method for improving perception, concentration, learning and/or memory comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 4

1. (Currently amended) A method for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders associated with cGMP-regulated processes or cGMP-related diseases comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) The use of compounds of the general formula (I)

$$R^3$$
 N N R^2 R^4 (I) ,

in which

 R^1 is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

 R^2 is (C_3-C_8) -cycloalkyl or (C_1-C_{12}) -alkyl,

 R^3 is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

 R^4 is a radical of the formulae

$$-NH-SO_{2}-R^{5}$$
or
$$SO_{2}-R^{6}$$

$$SO_{2}-R^{7}$$

in which

 R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are identical or different and are vinyl or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by trifluoromethyl, halogen, (C1-C₆)-alkoxy or by radicals of the formulae

in which

 R^8 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

or

 R^5 , R^6 and/or R^7 are (C_6 - C_{12})-aryl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, (C_1 - C_6)-alkyl or (C_1 - C_6)-alkoxy,

or

R⁵ is quinolyl or a 5- to 6-membered, aromatic or saturated heterocycle having up to 3 heteroatoms from the series S, N and/or O, which may optionally be substituted, in the case of an N function also via the latter, up to 3 times, identically or differently, by halogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl,

or

R⁵ is a radical of the formulae

$$S$$
, O or $-NR^9R^{10}$,

in which

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are identical or different and are hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or phenyl,

or

R⁴ is carboxyl or is a radical of the formulae

$$HO_{Z_{3}}$$
 $HO_{Z_{3}}$
 $P(O)(OR^{11})(OR^{12})$
 $N-CH_{3}$
 $-CO-R^{13} \text{ or } -O-R^{14}$

in which

R¹¹ and R¹² are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

 R^{13} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

 R^{14} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl, phenyl or by a radical of the formula $-NR^{15}R^{16}$,

in which

 R^{15} and R^{16} are identical or different and are hydrogen, phenyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which in turn may be substituted by phenyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula –NH-CO-NR¹⁷R¹⁸,

in which

 R^{17} and R^{18} are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl or by a radical of the formulae

in which

 R^{19} and R^{20} are identical or different and are hydrogen, phenyl or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ -alkyl,

or

 R^{17} and R^{18} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

in which

 R^{21} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

a is either 1 or 2,

R²² is hydroxyl or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

or

 R^{17} and/or R^{18} are (C_6 - C_{12})-aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, trifluoroethyl or by – SCF_3 ,

or

R¹⁷ is hydrogen and

 R^{18} is a radical of the formula $-SO_2-R^{23}$,

in which

 R^{23} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl or (C_6-C_{12}) -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, or is a radical of the formulae

$$-N$$
 or $-N$ N-CH₃

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula

-NH-CO-R²⁴,

in which

R²⁴ is a radical of the formula

in which

 R^{25} and R^{26} are identical or different and are hydrogen, (C_1 - C_6)-alkyl or (C_1 - C_6)-alkoxycarbonyl,

or

 R^{24} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by (C_6-C_{12}) -aryl which in turn may be substituted by hydroxyl or (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or

 (C_1-C_6) -alkyl is optionally substituted by a radical of the formula $-(SO_2)_b-R^{27}$, in which

b is either 0 or 1, and

R²⁷ is a radical of the formulae

$$-N$$
 O $-CH_2-N$ O $-N$ $N-CH_3$

or

is (C_1-C_{12}) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl, azide, phenyl or by radicals of the formulae -NR²⁸R²⁹, -O-CO-R³⁰ or -P(O){O-[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]}₂,

in which

 R^{28} and R^{29} are identical or different, are hydrogen, phenyl or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or phenyl,

or

R²⁸ and R²⁹ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

$$-N \longrightarrow N-O , -N \longrightarrow N-R^{33} , -N \longrightarrow N-R^{33} ,$$

in which

R³¹ and R³² are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl,

 R^{33} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkylcarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy,

and

$$R^{30}$$
 is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

or

 (C_1-C_{12}) -alkyl is optionally substituted by triazolyl which may in turn be substituted up to twice, identically or differently, by halogen, phenyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl or by (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, where the latter can optionally be substituted by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or by a radical of the formulae NR³⁴R³⁵ or -O-CO-R³⁶,

in which

R³⁴ and R³⁵ are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)-alkyl,

$$R^{36}$$
 is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula -CO-R³⁷,

in which

R³⁷ is a radical of the formulae

$$-CH_{2}-CN$$
, $-N$ $N-R^{38}$ $-CH_{2}-N$ $N-R^{38}$

$$-(CH_2)_c-NR^{39}R^{40}$$
 or $-CH_2-P(O)(OR^{41})(OR^{42})$,

in which

 R^{38} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

c is either 0 or 1,

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 R^{39} and R^{40} are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

R⁴¹ and R⁴² are identical or different and are (C₁-C₆)-alkyl,

or

R⁴ is a 5-membered heterocycle having up to 3 heteroatoms from the series S, N and/or O which is optionally substituted, in the case of an N function also via the latter, a total of up to 3 times, identically or differently, by halogen, trifluoromethyl or by phenyl which may in turn be substituted one or more times by halogen or trifluoromethyl,

and/or is optionally substituted by (C_3-C_6) -cycloalkyl, pyrryl or (C_1-C_{12}) -alkyl which may in turn be substituted by cyano, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy, amino or by phenyl or nitro-substituted phenyl,

and/or may optionally be substituted by -NR⁴³R⁴⁴, -NH-CO-CO-R⁴⁵, -NH-CO-R⁴⁶, -NH-CO-

$$-N$$
 $-N$
 CH_2-R^{47} , -CO- R^{48} or

in which

R⁴³ and R⁴⁴ are identical or different and are hydrogen, benzyl (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen or trifluoromethyl,

 R^{45} is (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy,

 R^{46} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl or phenyl,

 R^{47} is hydroxyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkoxy or a radical of the formula -O-CO- R^{49} ,

in which

 R^{49} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

 R^{48} is a radical of the formula –CH₂-CN or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen, trifluoromethyl or $(C_1$ - $C_6)$ -alkoxy,

and the salts, tautomers, N-oxides, prodrugs and hydrates thereof, and isomeric forms,

for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders associated with eGMP-regulated processes ('eGMP-related diseases').

 (Currently amended) The use method as claimed in claim 1, where in wherein the compounds of the general formula (I)

in which

 R^1 is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

R² is cyclopentyl, cycloheptyl or (C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl,

 R^3 is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

R⁴ is a radical of the formulae

$$-NH-SO_{2}-R^{5} \qquad SO_{2}-R^{6}$$

$$-NSO_{2}-R^{7}$$
or

in which

R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are identical or different and are vinyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by trifluoromethyl, chlorine, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy or by radicals of the formulae

in which

R⁸ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl,

or

 R^5 , R^6 and/or R^7 are phenyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently by halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

or

R⁵ is quinolyl or a radical of the formulae

$$\begin{array}{c|c} S & & \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} N - C_2 H_5 \end{array}$$

which may optionally be substituted up to twice, identically or differently, by chlorine or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

or

R⁵ is a radical of the formulae

in which

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are identical or different and are hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or phenyl,

or

R⁴ is carboxyl or is a radical of the formulae

$$HO_{\frac{7}{2}}$$
 $HO_{\frac{7}{2}}$
 $N-CH_{3}$,

-CO- R^{13} or -O- R^{14} ,

in which

 R^{11} and R^{12} are identical or different and are hydrogen or ($C_1\text{-}C_4$)-alkyl,

$$R^{13}$$
 is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

R¹⁴ is (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl, phenyl or by a radical of the formula –NR¹⁵R¹⁶,

in which

R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are identical or different and are hydrogen, phenyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which may in turn be substituted by phenyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula –NH-CO-NR¹⁷R¹⁸,

in which

R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl or by a radical of the formulae

$$CH_3$$
 or $-NR^{19}R^{20}$

in which

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are identical or different and are hydrogen, phenyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

or

R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

$$-N \qquad N-R^{21} \qquad -N \qquad \text{or} \qquad R^{22}$$

in which

R²¹ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

a is either 1 or 2,

 R^{22} is hydroxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

or

 R^{17} and/or R^{18} are phenyl which is optionally substituted by chlorine, trifluoroethyl or by $-SCF_3$,

or

R¹⁷ is hydrogen, and

 R^{18} is a radical of the formula $-SO_2-R^{23}$,

in which

 R^{23} is (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen, or is a radical of the formulae

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula

-NH-CO-R²⁴

in which

R²⁴ is a radical of the formula

in which

 R^{25} and R^{26} are identical or different and are hydrogen, (C_1 - C_4)-alkyl or (C_1 - C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl,

or

 R^{24} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by phenyl which may in turn be substituted by hydroxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, or

 (C_1-C_4) -alkyl is optionally substituted by a radical of the formula $-(SO_2)_b-R^{27}$ in which

b is either 0 or 1, and

R²⁷ is a radical of the formulae

or

is (C_1-C_{11}) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl, azide, phenyl or by radicals of the formulae -NR²⁸R²⁹, -O-CO-R³⁰ or - P(O){O-[(C₁-C₆)-alkyl]}₂,

in which

 R^{28} and R^{29} are identical or different and are hydrogen, phenyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy or phenyl,

or

R²⁸ and R²⁹ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

$$-N$$
 $N-O$
, $-N$
 $N-O$
 $N-O$

in which

 R^{31} and R^{32} are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

 R^{33} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkylcarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

and

 R^{30} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

or

 (C_1-C_{11}) -alkyl is optionally substituted by triazolyl which may in turn be substituted up to twice, identically or differently, by halogen, phenyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl or by (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, where the latter may optionally be substituted by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy or by a radical of the formulae $NR^{34}R^{35}$ or -O-CO- R^{36} ,

in which

R³⁴ and R³⁵ are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

 R^{36} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula –CO-R³⁷

in which

R³⁷ is a radical of the formulae

$$-CH_{2}-N$$
O, $-CH_{2}-N$
N-R³⁸

 $-(CH_2)_c-NR^{39}R^{40}$ or $-CH_2-P(O)(OR^{41})(OR^{42})$,

in which

 R^{38} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

c is either 0 or 1,

R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

R⁴¹ and R⁴² are identical or different and are (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula

$$\longrightarrow$$
 or \longrightarrow N

which is optionally substituted, in the case of pyrazole also via the N function, a total of up to 3 times, identically or differently, by chlorine, trifluoromethyl or by phenyl which may in turn be substituted one or more times by chlorine or trifluoromethyl,

and/or is optionally substituted by cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyrryl or (C_1-C_{12}) -alkyl which may in turn be substituted by cyano, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, amino or by phenyl or nitro-substituted phenyl,

and/or may also be substituted by -NR⁴³R⁴⁴, -NH-CO-CO-R⁴⁵, -NH-CO-R⁴⁶,

in which

R⁴³ and R⁴⁴ are identical or different and are hydrogen, benzyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen or trifluoromethyl,

 R^{45} is (C_1-C_5) -alkoxy,

R⁴⁶ is (C₁-C₅)-alkyl or phenyl,

 R^{47} is hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy or a radical of the formula –O-CO- R^{49} , in which

$$R^{49}$$
 is (C_1-C_3) -alkyl,

R⁴⁸ is a radical of the formula –CH₂-CN or phenyl which is optionally substituted by chlorine, trifluoromethyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

and the tautomers thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

 (Currently amended) The use method as claimed in claim 1, where in wherein the compound of the general formula (I) in which

$$R^1$$
 is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

 R^2 is cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl or (C_1-C_{10}) -alkyl,

$$R^3$$
 is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

R⁴ is a radical of the formulae

$$-NH-SO_{2}-R^{5} \qquad SO_{2}-R^{6}$$

$$-NSO_{2}-R^{7}$$

in which

R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are identical or different and are vinyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by trifluoromethyl, chlorine, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy or by radicals of the formulae

$$-N$$
 $N-R^8$ or $-N$

in which

R⁸ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl,

or

R⁵, R⁶ and/or R⁷ are phenyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by halogen, cyano, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

or

R⁵ is a radical of the formulae

$$-N \qquad \qquad N-C_2H_5$$

which may optionally be substituted up to twice, identically or differently, by chlorine or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

or

R⁵ is a radical of the formula –NR⁹R¹⁰,

in which

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are identical or different and are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or phenyl,

or

R⁴ is carboxyl or is a radical of the formulae

in which

 R^{13} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

 R^{14} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl or by a radical of the formula -NR¹⁵R¹⁶,

in which

 R^{15} and R^{16} are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which in turn may be substituted by phenyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula –NH-CO-NR¹⁷R¹⁸,

in which

R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

or

R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

$$-N$$
 $N-R^{21}$ or $-N$ O

in which

 R^{21} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

or

 R^{17} and/or R^{18} are phenyl which is optionally substituted by chlorine, trifluoroethyl or by $-SCF_3$,

or

R¹⁷ is hydrogen, and

R¹⁸ is a radical of the formula -SO₂-R²³,

in which

 R^{23} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen, or is a radical of the formulae

$$-N$$
 or $-N$ $N-CH_3$

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula

-NH-CO-R²⁴,

in which

 R^{24} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by phenyl which in turn may optionally be substituted by hydroxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, or

 (C_1-C_4) -alkyl is optionally substituted by a radical of the formula $-(SO_2)_b-R^{27}$, in which

b is either 0 or 1, and

R²⁷ is a radical of the formulae

$$-N$$
 or $-N$ N-CH₃

or

 R^4 is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which is optionally substituted up to 3 times, identically or differently, by hydroxyl, phenyl or by radicals of the formulae $-NR^{28}R^{29}$ or $-O-CO-R^{30}$,

in which

 R^{28} and R^{29} are identical or different, are hydrogen, phenyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy or phenyl,

or

R²⁸ and R²⁹ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring of the formulae

$$-N \longrightarrow N-O, \quad -N \longrightarrow OH, \quad -N \longrightarrow O$$

$$-N \longrightarrow NR^{31}R^{32} \qquad -N \longrightarrow N-R^{33}$$

in which

R³¹ and R³² are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

 R^{33} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkylcarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

and

 R^{30} is (C_1-C_6) -alkyl,

or

 (C_1-C_6) -alkyl is optionally substituted by triazolyl which may in turn be substituted up to twice, identically or differently, by (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, where the latter may optionally be substituted by hydroxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

in which

or

 R^4 is a radical of the formula –CO- R^{37} ,

in which

R³⁷ is a radical of the formulae

$$-N$$
 $N-R^{38}$

$$-CH_{2}-N$$
 O $-CH_{2}-N$ $N-R^{38}$

or $-(CH_2)_c$ -NR³⁹R⁴⁰,

in which

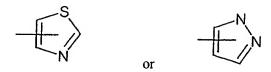
 R^{38} is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl,

c is either 0 or 1,

 R^{39} and R^{40} are identical or different and are hydrogen or (C_1-C_4) -alkyl which is optionally substituted by hydroxyl,

or

R⁴ is a radical of the formula



which is optionally substituted, in the case of pyrazole also via the N function, a total of up to 3 times, identically or differently, by trifluoromethyl or by phenyl which may in turn be substituted one or more times by chlorine or trifluoromethyl,

and/or is optionally substituted by cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or by (C_1-C_6) -alkyl which may in turn be substituted by (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, amino or by phenyl,

and/or may optionally be substituted by $-NR^{43}R^{44}$, -NH-CO- R^{46} , -NH-CO- CH_2 - R^{47} or -CO- R^{48} .

in which

 R^{43} and R^{44} are identical or different and are hydrogen, benzyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen or trifluoromethyl,

 R^{46} is (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or phenyl,

 R^{47} is hydroxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

 R^{48} is phenyl which is optionally substituted by chlorine, trifluoromethyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy,

and the tautomers thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

4. (Currently amended) The <u>use method</u> as claimed in claim 1 of <u>wherein the</u> compounds <u>having</u> <u>has</u> the following structures:

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and the tautomers thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodtrugs thereof.

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- 5. (Cancelled).
- 6. (Currently amended) The use of compounds as defined in claims 1 to 4 for producing medicaments A method for the treatment of diseases in which an improvement and/or cure of the pathological condition can be achieved by improving the microcirculation of a tissue which comprises a cGMP-metabolizing phosphodiesterase comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.
- 7. (Currently amended) The use of compounds as defined in claims 1 to 4 for producing medicaments A method for the treatment of and/or prophylaxis of coronary heart disease, heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, bladder disorders, prostate hyperplasia, nitrate-induced tolerance, ocular disorders, such as glaucoma, for the treatment or prophylaxis of central retinal or posterior cilliary arterial occlusion, central retinal venous occlusion, optic neuropathy, such as anterior ischemic optic neuropathy, and glaucomatous optic neuropathy, and of macular degeneration, diabetes, for the treatment of disorders of the peristalsis of stomach and esophagus, female infertility, premature labor, preeclampsia, alopecia, psoriasis, the renal syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and cancer, for improving perception, for improving concentration, for improving learning and/or memory comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.